

**CONFIDENTIAL**

16097

Declass Review by NGA.

NPIC/P&DS/D/6-1618  
12 October 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center

SUBJECT: Request for Approval of the Wide Print Straightener  
Project with the [redacted]  
[redacted] from FY 1967 Funding

REFERENCE: Chief, Administrative Staff, O/DDI Memorandum of  
4 February 1964 on: "Approval of R&D Activities."

1. The Wide Print Straightener Project has been prepared for your approval in order for contract negotiations to be carried out in FY 1967. This project will result in the development of a prototype print straightener capable of handling black and white photographic prints up to 30 inches wide and fulfil an important requirement in the Production Services Division.

2. The attached staff study, tabs, and contract proposal present pertinent information and justification for this project.

3. It is recommended that this project be approved at a funding level of [redacted] in FY 1967.

[redacted]  
Colonel, USAF  
Assistant for Plans and Development, NPIC

Attachments: a/s

APPROVED: [redacted]

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL  
Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

DATE: 18 OCT 1966

Distribution:

- Original and 1 - Addressee
- 1 - NPIC/SS/LB
- 1 - NPIC/P&DS
- 3 - NPIC/P&DS/DB

NPIC/P&DS/DB [redacted]

(12 October 1966)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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*Available*

3 October 1966

WIDE PRINT STRAIGHTENER  
(Project 10097)

1. PROBLEM.

To develop a straightener for the large photographic prints required by NPIC for briefing purposes.

2. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM.

a. Large prints are used by NPIC to provide briefings on mission results.

b. All newly processed photographic prints have a decided curl due to the differential drying of the emulsion and the paper base, making them difficult to handle unless flattened by a print straightener.

c. Commercially available print straighteners will not accept photographic prints more than 16 inches wide.

d. Since briefing prints must be considerably larger in size than 16 inches for effective presentation, it is necessary to employ a time-consuming process to mount them on a stable backing.

3. DISCUSSION.

a. Current Procedure - Large photographic prints are presently delivered from the photo laboratory in a curled condition, making it necessary for the user to mount them on a hardboard base before they are used.

b. Origin of Concept - By a memorandum dated 7 July 1965, the Production Services Division, NPIC, stated a requirement for two print straighteners capable of handling prints 26 to 30 inches in width and requested the Plans and Development Staff to investigate the feasibility of developing a wide print straightener. The subsequent investigation considered commercially available equipment, modifications to commercial equipment, and new designs. It was determined that the commercial equipment could not be modified to meet the requirement and a new design was necessary to handle the large size prints.

c. Proposed Program - This project is for the development of a prototype print straightener capable of handling black and white photographic prints up to 30 inches wide. Dependent upon the test and evaluation of the prototype, an improved version is also planned. Operational and maintenance literature as well as specifications and drawings will be required.

d. Selection of Contractor - Development Objectives were prepared and forwarded to the Office of Logistics in November 1965 for solicitation of proposals. By January 1966 no formal proposals had resulted from the solicitation. Two qualified local facilities were then formally contacted. Resultant proposals from both companies [redacted]

[redacted] were evaluated. [redacted] submission was extremely brief and lacking in essential details. Efforts to obtain more detail resulted in verbal commitments but to date a revised proposal has not been received. It is felt that, although [redacted] is qualified and fully aware of the requirements, it has applied very little effort and time to the specifics in the proposal, and intends to work out the details after being awarded the contract. Thus, in spite of the fact that [redacted] was the low bidder, further consideration of the [redacted] proposal is felt unwarranted.

The [redacted] proposal, on the other hand, is well prepared, and indicates that considerable time and effort was expended in preparation. All details are covered and the design parameters of the several component parts are technically sound. The selection of materials for the various moving parts, tables, sink, etc., are the preferred types for this application. The approach to the complete operation indicates awareness of the requirements. A plant visit was made to inspect the company's facilities and to further discuss the development objectives. The results of this visit and the thoroughness of the proposal indicate that the contract award to [redacted] will result in superior equipment.

e. Coordination - The selection of the [redacted] proposal has been coordinated and concurred in by the Production Services Division, NPIC, and by the Plans and Development Staff, NPIC. This project has been coordinated with DDS&T/ORD and has been presented to the intelligence community by the distribution of the 1966 edition of the P&DS publication, "NPIC Equipment Summary." This has also been presented to the members of the "Committee on Photographic Exploitation" (COPE).

f. Alternatives - Alternatives to the solution of curled briefing prints are: (1) Continuation of the present method of requiring hard-back mounting of prints; (2) Acceptance of the lower cost proposal and probable delivery of an inferior piece of equipment.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS.

The [redacted] proposal evidences complete understanding of the task and technical competence to achieve all of the requirements. The company has the required personnel and facilities, and the funding as quoted seems reasonable and justifiable. There is every reason to expect a satisfactory item within the five-month schedule and at the cost quoted.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

It is recommended that the proposal of the [redacted] be accepted for the development of this equipment

and that a fixed-price contract for [ ] be negotiated on the basis of the Development Objectives and [ ] proposal.

25X  
25X

6. REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS.

TAB A - R&D Catalog Form

TAB B - Development Objectives

TAB C - Program Phasing

Attachment - Proposal

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

(When Filled In)

TAB A

R & D CATALOG FORM		DATE 31 August 1966
1. PROJECT TITLE/CODE NAME Wide Print Straightener		2. SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION Development of a photo print straightener for removing the curl from freshly processed photographic prints.
5. CLASS OF CONTRACTOR Manufacturer		6. TYPE OF CONTRACT
7. FUNDS FY 19 66 \$ None		8. REQUISITION NO.
FY 19 67		9. BUDGET PROJECT NO. NP-R-9-10097
FY 19 68 \$ None		10. EFFECTIVE CONTRACT DATE (Begin - end) 30 November 66 - 30 April 67
11. SECURITY CLASS. A.A. - Confidential T. - Unclassified W. - Unclassified		
12. RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE/OFFICE/PROJECT OFFICER TELEPHONE EXTENSION DDI/NPIC/P&DS		
13. REQUIREMENT/AUTHORITY PSD/LB has a requirement to straighten 30 inch wide photographic prints. Equipment capable of meeting this requirement is not available.		
14. TYPE OF WORK TO BE DONE Engineering Development		
15. CATEGORIES OF EFFORT		
MAJOR CATEGORY Reproduction Techniques & Materials		SUB-CATEGORIES Reproduction Processors
16. END ITEM OR SERVICES FROM THIS CONTRACT/IMPROVEMENT OVER CURRENT SYSTEM, EQUIPMENT, ETC. One prototype print straightener, wide print.		
17. SUPPORTING OR RELATED CONTRACTS (Agency & Other)/COORDINATION There is no known equipment either under development or available commercially which will satisfy this requirement. This has been coordinated with DDS&T/ORD, disseminated to the intelligence community through the 1966 NPIC Equipment Summary and presented to the Committee on Photographic Exploitation.		
18. DESCRIPTION OF INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENT AND DETAILED TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (Continue on additional page if required) Briefing prints are frequently made in sizes as large as 30 inches in width. This item will be used to remove curl from these prints, thus permitting their use without mounting. Deliverable items will include the prototype print straightener, monthly and final reports and such specifications and drawings as may be required for subsequent procurement of the item.		
19. APPROVED BY AND DATE		
OFFICE	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	DDCI